



Public Workshop on Simpson Park Playground & Passive Lawn Renovation Concepts

May 25, 2016

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Simpson Park Playground and Passive Lawn Renovation

Agenda



7:00 PM Welcome and Introductions	<i>Dana/Diane</i>
7:15 PM Slide Presentation on Concept Alternatives	<i>Cara/Elisabeth</i>
7:30 PM Slide Presentation on Public Art	<i>Carol/Tim/Diane</i>
7:45 PM Break for Small Group Discussion	<i>Dana</i>
8:40 PM Report from Small Group Discussion and Next Steps	
9:00 PM Adjourn	

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Improvement Plan 2014

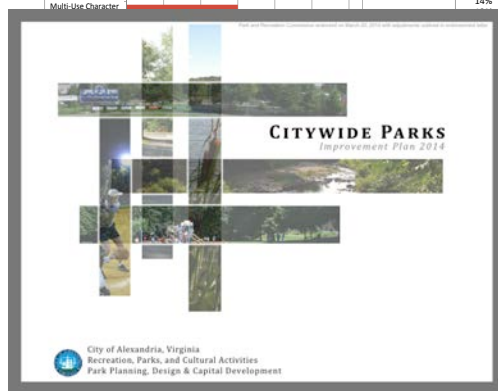
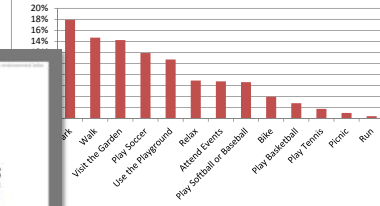
Park and Recreation Commission endorsed on March 20, 2014 with adjustments outlined in endorsement letter



What do you like about the Park?



What do you do in the Park?



These include:

Parking

The survey and both workshops indicated that a parking management strategy is needed to determine how to control parking during heavy use of the soccer fields. From the users

Dog Park

The dog park is highly active, year-round and facilitates a strong community among dog owners. Many dog park users feel that the facility lacks amenities such as shade, lighting, new surfacing, and seating.

access from the streets. The design could also be better connected to passive use areas, making it family friendly for multiple age groups.

Playground

As shown in the survey results, the playground is a priority for Park improvements. As suggested, a playground renovation should include rubberized surface, areas for ages over five, and more shade. The design could also be better connected to passive use areas, making it family friendly for multiple age groups.

Passive Community Space

Simpson Park has many facilities to support organized activity for specific user groups. It lacks, however, a welcoming space to throw a frisbee, gather for a picnic, or let kids just "run around." While the Park is compact, better circulation could help carve out open areas for unorganized passive use. Additionally, the fields may be opened on occasion for monitored use without a permit.

Background and Use

- City destination used for athletics (tennis, baseball, basketball, and soccer)
- Dog park, playground, and passive lawn area occupy the “left over” pieces of the park
- Lacks flexible open space
- Ball fields generally available by permit only



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The Plan

KEYED LEGEND

1. WIDEN PATH 6-8 FEET TO ENABLE NORTH-SOUTH STANDARD PATHWAY
2. ADJUST PLAYGROUND BORDERS, IMPROVE ENTRANCES, AND ADD NATURAL PLAY
3. ADD STROLLER PARKING AND PLAZA AT PLAYGROUND ENTRANCE
4. CREATE OPEN-USE AREA AND IMPROVE PLANTINGS IN PASSIVE USE AREAS
5. CONNECT PATHWAY TO E. DUNCAN AVE
6. USE BOLLARDS TO LIMIT PATHWAY DRIVING ACCESS TO MAINTENANCE VEHICLES
7. PLANT PERIMETER TREES TO CREATE "GREEN ALLEY"
8. PROVIDE NEW HARD TRAILS IN EAST HALF OF PARK
9. PROVIDE NEW FIELD ENTRANCE AND RAMP
10. IMPROVE MAINTENANCE ROUTE TO SOCCER FIELDS
11. PROVIDE NEW BLEACHERS WITH EQUIPMENT STORAGE UNDERNEATH
12. PROVIDE NEW BLEACHERS WITH CONCESSIONS BOOTHS UNDERNEATH
13. CREATE PICNIC AREA NEAR CONCESSIONS
14. EXPAND PARKING LOT
15. ENCOURAGE USE OF FORTY FIVE TOTAL ON-STREET PARKING SPACES ALONG E. MONROE AVE AND MAIN LINE BLVD FOR SOCCER FIELD USE
16. IMPROVE DOG PARK TO INCLUDE LIGHTING, TERRACED HILL, TREES, AND PLAY FEATURES
17. ADD MAINTENANCE STORAGE SHELTER AND YARD BETWEEN FIELDS
18. ADD VEGETATED BICSWALKS ALONG DOG PARK EDGE AND AT MAINTENANCE YARD



Note: CIP Funds have already been allocated to install stairs at Monroe Avenue/basketball court and to replace the Little Simpson Press Box in 2014.

GRAPHIC KEY

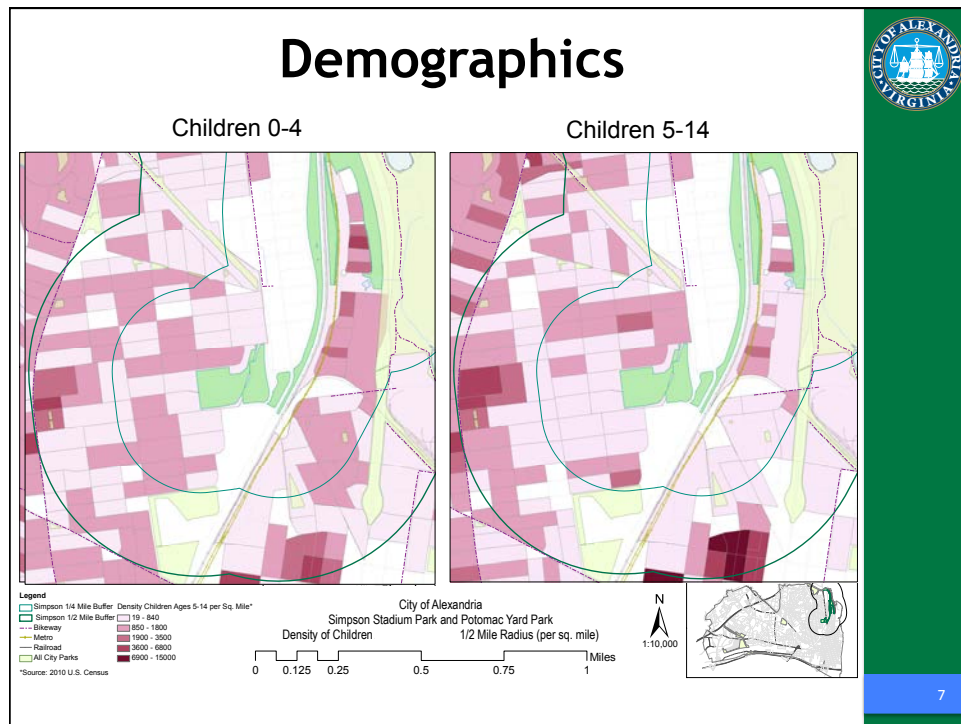


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SIMPSON STADIUM PARK

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Park and Recreation Commission endorsed on March 20, 2014 with adjustments outlined in endorsement letter

Recommendations & Implementation Strategy

The existing sidewalk between the YMCA parking lot and Duncan Avenue is very narrow, making it difficult for park users to pass each other, especially if there is a cyclist or stroller.

The playground is in need of replacement and equipment to cater to multiple age groups.

- 1

Widen path to be 6-8 feet in width enabling a north-south standard pathway

Many Del Ray residents use this path to walk to neighborhood destinations, yet, the existing four foot path is constricted for simultaneous pedestrian, bicycle, and stroller use at its narrowest points. Widening this pathway would create an easier pedestrian route and meet the City's standard width for sidewalks.

ESTIMATED COST: \$87,500 - \$156,000 PRIORITY: Medium PROPOSED TIMEFRAME: 3-10 Years
- 2

Adjust playground borders, improve entrances, add natural play

The proposed playground area will be moved slightly east to accommodate the widened path (recommendation #1). It will include a rubberized surface and new play equipment to serve multiple ages. Additional tree canopy will shade the area and new benches and trash receptacles will improve the space for parents and caregivers. The entire play area will increase with the addition of a seating wall and climbing features to the east of the playground.

ESTIMATED COST: \$325,000 - \$475,000 PRIORITY: High PROPOSED TIMEFRAME: 1-3 years
- 3

Add stroller parking and plaza at playground entrance


The proposed northwest entrance will provide convenient access to the playground from Duncan Avenue and serve as a welcoming gateway to the entire park. Parents or guardians with strollers will be able to park them in notches along the fence line bordering the proposed entrance.

ESTIMATED COST: \$19,000 - \$27,000 PRIORITY: Medium PROPOSED TIMEFRAME: 1-3 Years


SIMPSON STADIUM PARK

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Park and Recreation Commission endorsed on March 20, 2014 with adjustments outlined in endorsement



The current passive use space that is unfenced is north of Big Simpson. Its grass surface is in poor condition.



The park entrance at Duncan Avenue is simply an opening in a fence. It lacks any welcoming features and does not have a pathway to link to the rest of the Park. Often non-authorized vehicles enter the Park this way.



The northside of Simpson Park is bordered by a visible alleyway and adjacent residences.


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Create open-use area and improve plantings in passive use areas

This plan proposes renovating open space to accommodate multiple passive uses and help to balance the type of activities in Simpson Park. With re-grading and improved landscape, the area will accommodate uses such as frisbee, picnics, and quiet relaxation. An entrance plaza including pervious brick pavers, benches, and trash receptacles will create a space for park visitors to congregate.

ESTIMATED COST: \$245,000 - \$368,000 PRIORITY: High PROPOSED TIMEFRAME: 3-10 Years

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SIMPSON STADIUM PARK



Findings from the Citywide Planning Effort

- 2011 and 2013, RPCA conducted a *Park and Recreation Needs Assessments* and found that the **highest City-wide needs are for un-programmed spaces, such as trails, natural areas, and picnic spaces;** yet, many of the City's parks, such as Simpson Park, are highly programmed and lacking of these needed items



Charge for this Project

- Renovate Simpson Park's open space to accommodate multiple passive uses and to help to balance the type of activities to establish open play uses and casual gathering areas
- Renovate the playground for ages 2-12, add more shade
- Connect passive use areas
- Make Simpson Park family-friendly for multiple-age groups.



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The park, as the subject of this renovation, is bounded by the chain link tennis courts on the east; the “Big Simpson” chain link fence at the south; East Duncan Avenue at the north; and the western edge of the existing concrete walkway at the west. It encompasses the existing playground, passive lawn, and several large shade trees.



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View from the East



Photo from tennis courts looking west across park



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View from the South



Photo looking East Duncan Street



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View from the West



Photo from playground looking east across park



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Collaboration with an Artist

- City's Office of the Arts hired an artist team to integrate public art into the site
- Public art is part of the overall design



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Schedule



Task	Item	Month(s)	Notes/Milestones
Task A	Park Design-Overview		
Task B	Project Development Tasks		
	Site Inventory Analysis	March/April	
	Park Programming	March	
	Maintenance and Operations	April/May	On-site meeting/tour
	Concept Design	April/May/June	
	Construction Documents	August-October	
	Construction Administration	Spring 2017	
Task C	Public Input and Meetings		
	Kick-off Meeting	March	Focus group meetings
	Concept Alternatives	May 25, 2016	Focus group meetings
	Preferred Concept	August	Focus group meetings
	Commission for the Arts and Park and Recreation Commission	June/July/Sept	

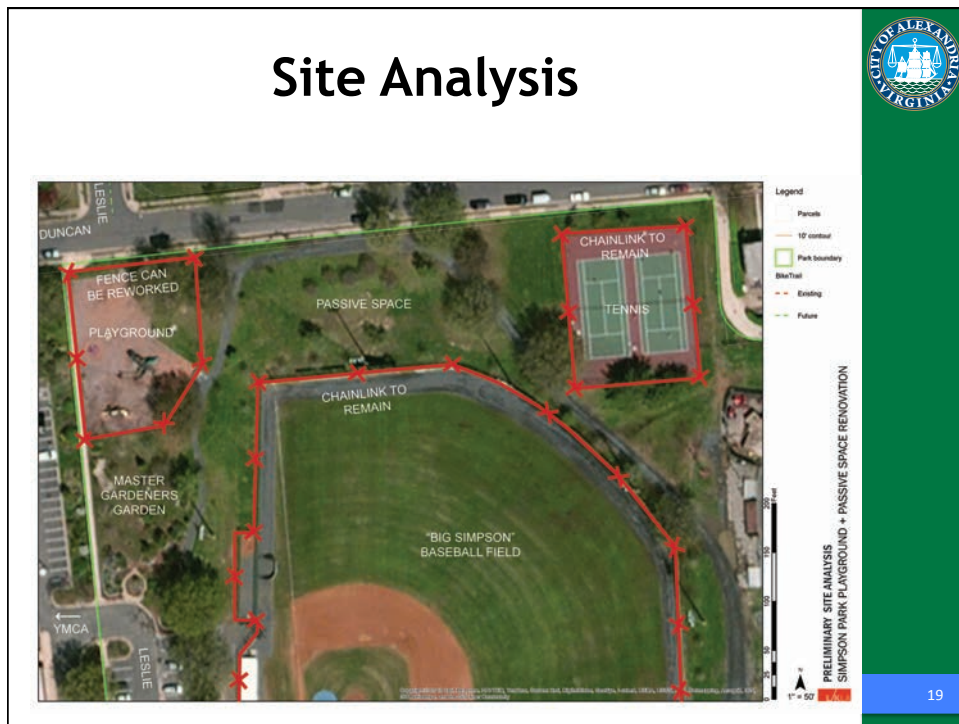
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Site Analysis

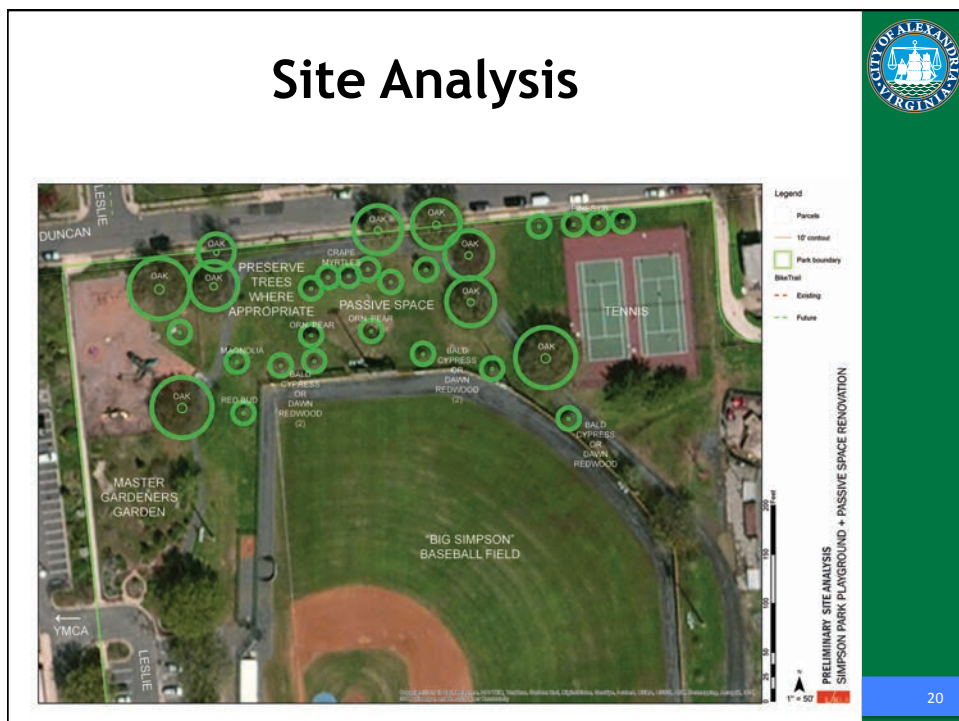


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Site Analysis



Site Analysis

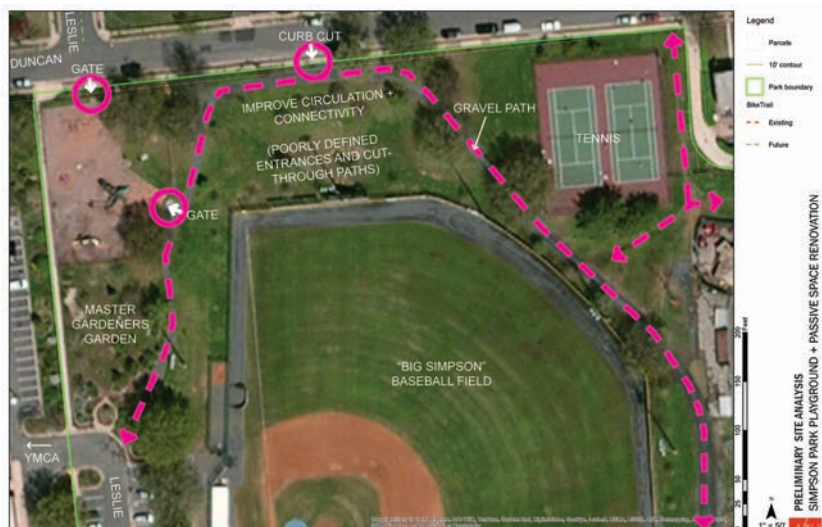


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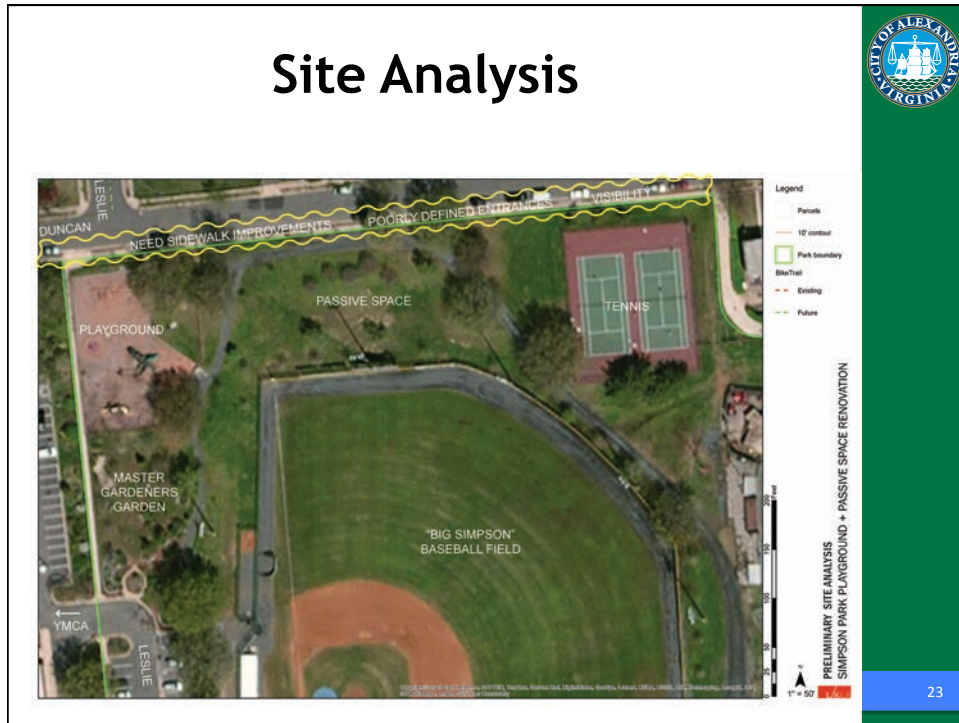
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Site Analysis

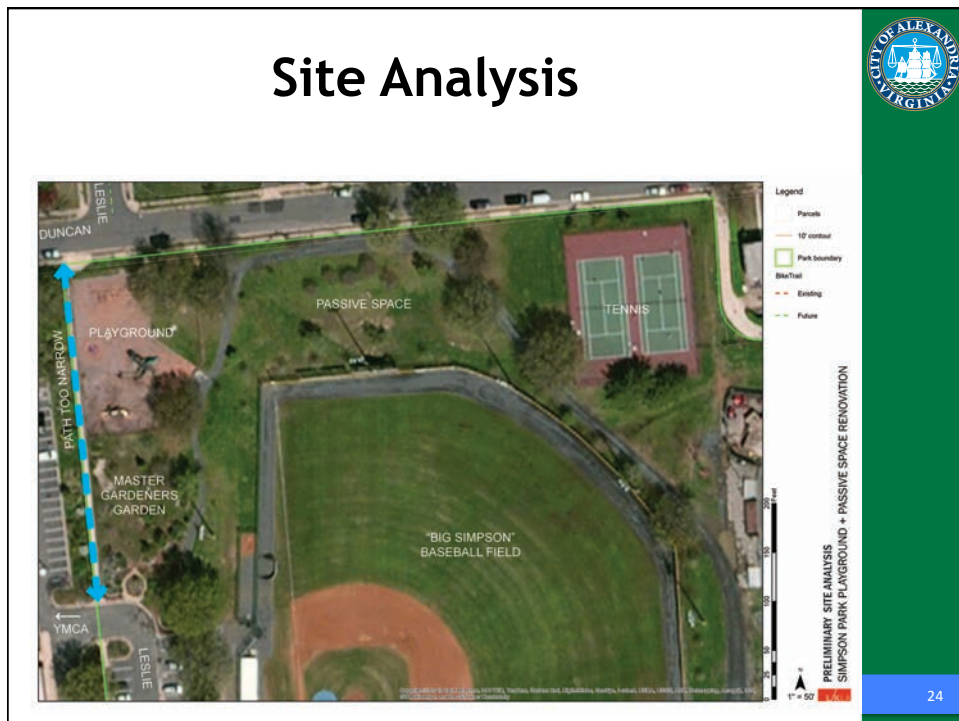


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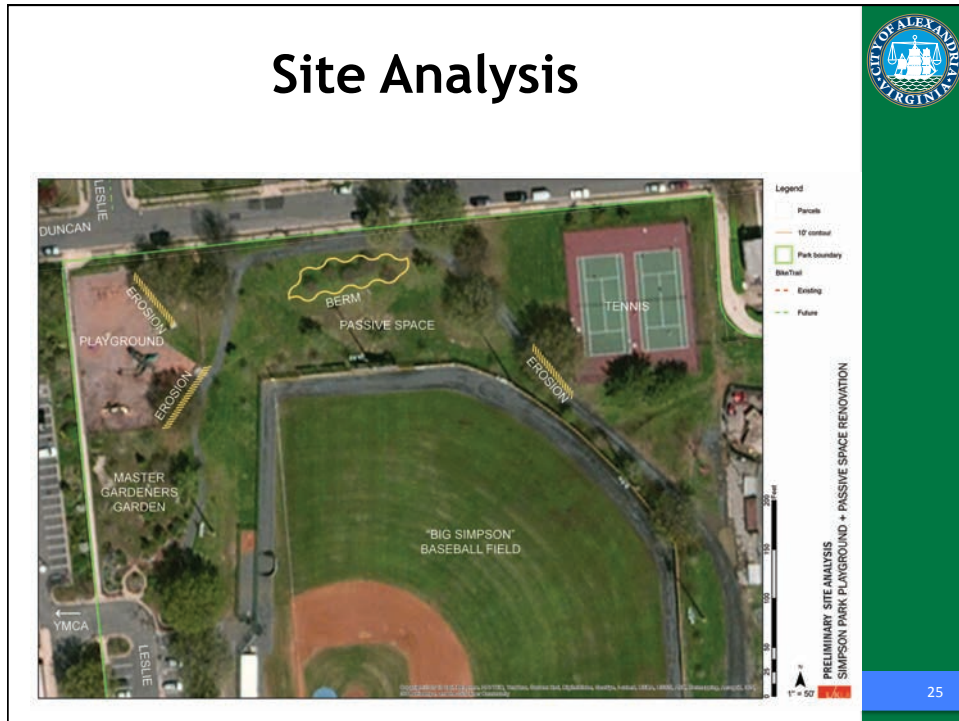
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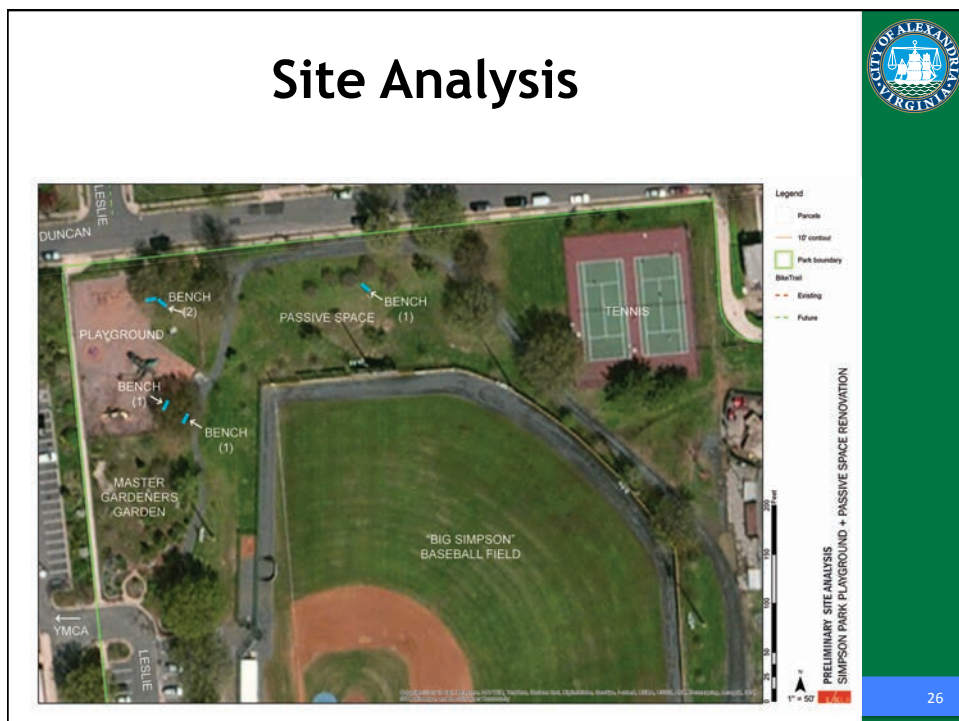
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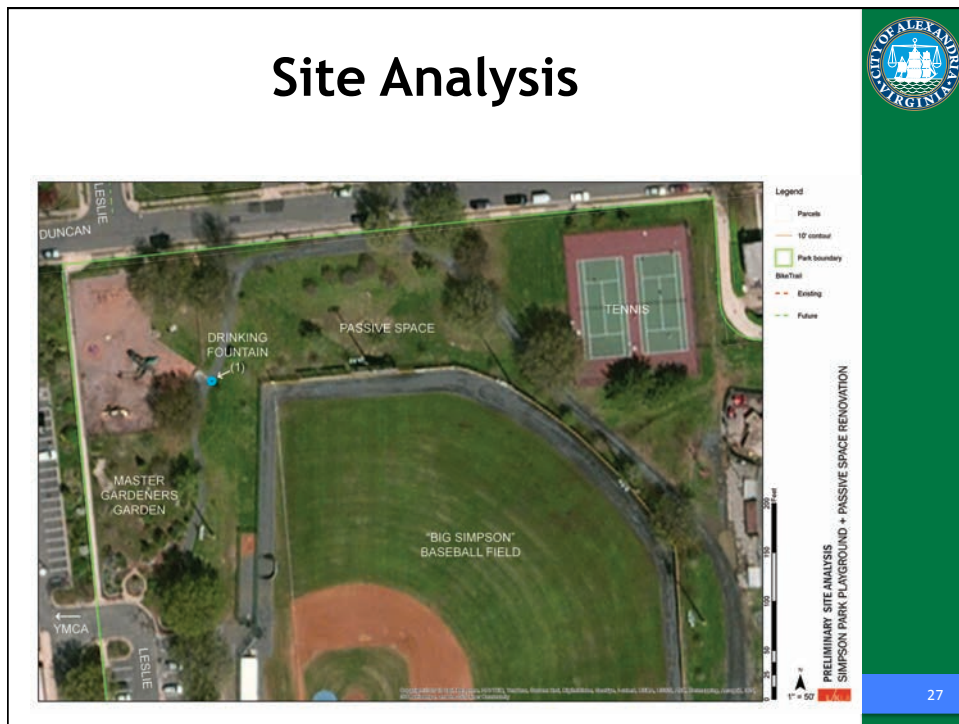
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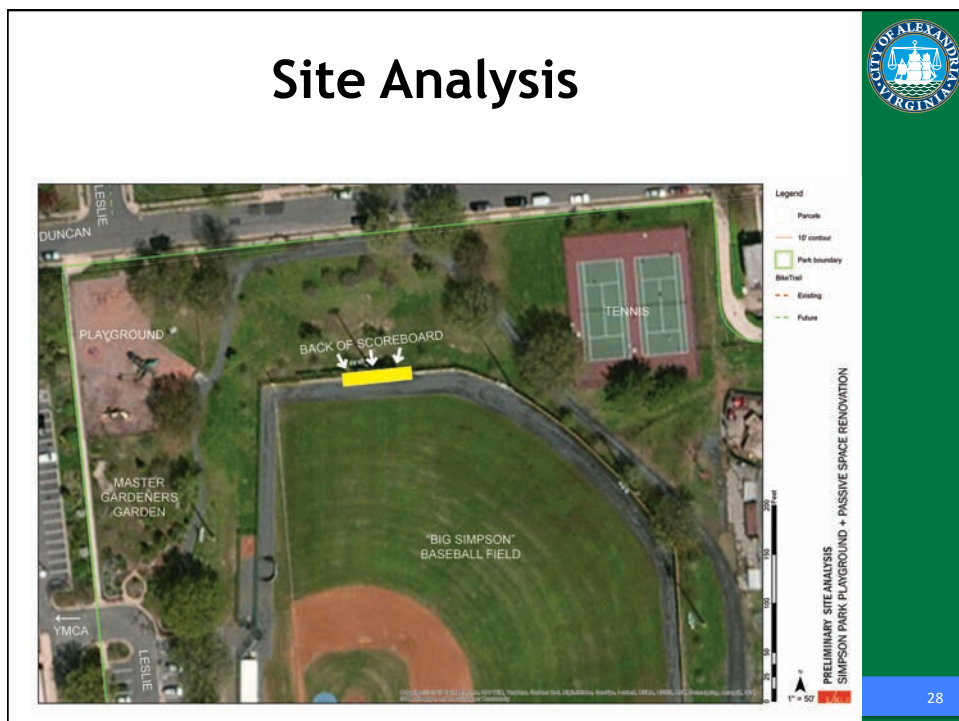
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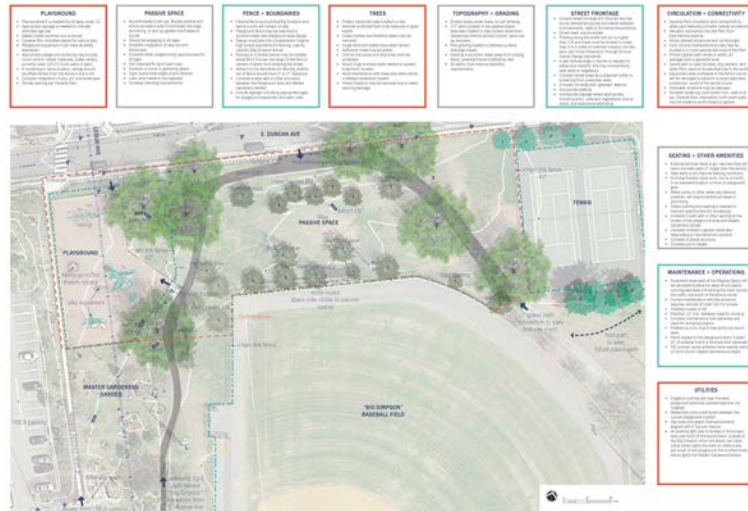
Site Analysis



Site Analysis



Site Analysis



SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION: EXISTING CONDITIONS, ANALYSIS + OPPORTUNITIES DRAFT 5/23/16

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Inspiration Board



SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION
INSPIRATION BOARD DRAFT 5/18/16

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Guiding Principles

- **Well integrated and multi-use, flexible space**
- Inviting and **safe** - **clear boundaries and comfortable enclosures/subspace** (fence, seat walls, vegetation, topography, etc.)
- **Circulation will be easily understandable** - clearly defined circulation paths with efficient connectivity (less cut-through paths) and have well defined entrances and access points
- Provide **social space** to accommodate a range of user groups, ages and social interactions
- Incorporate a **seamless integration of landscape, art, and play**
- Improvements project a **sense of place and community**
- Physical components will be **low maintenance and resilient** materials
- Provide **access to 'nature'** and provide health benefits
- **Large and small open areas for spontaneous play**
- **Public Art** will be selected and implemented in accordance with the Public Art Implementation Plan art goals



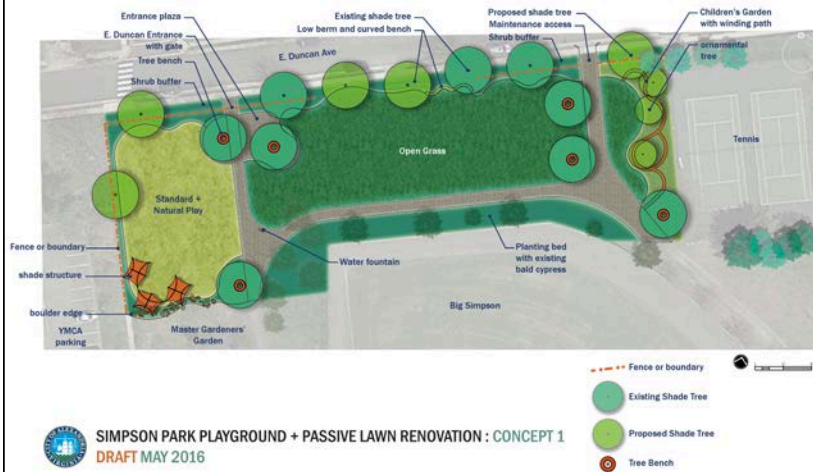
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Concepts from East Duncan St.



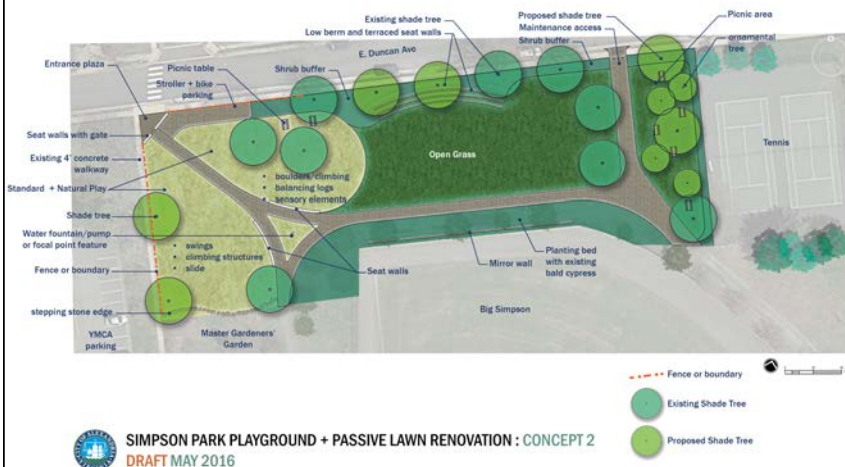
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Concept Alternative 1



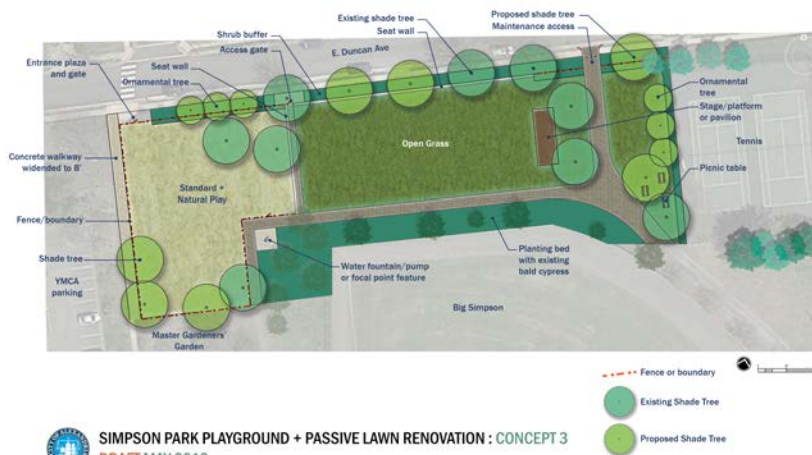
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Concept Alternative 2



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Concept Alternative 3



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Public Art with May + Watkins

Four types of public art have been considered by May + Watkins for the Simpson Park Playground & Passive Lawn Renovation project:

- Entrance Sculptures
- Climbable Sculpture
- Seating
- Kinetic Play



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Public Art – Entrance Sculptures



Nature Preserve, CO



Elementary School, Portland, ME

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Public Art – Entrance Sculptures



Florida Atlantic University



Nature Preserve, CO

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Public Art – Entrance Sculptures



Sebago Canoe Club Gate, Brooklyn, NY

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Public Art – Entrance Sculptures



Clackamas County Offices, OR

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Public Art – Climbable Sculpture



Florida Atlantic University



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Public Art – Climbable Sculpture



Rooftop Play, NYC



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Public Art – Climbable Sculpture



Play Structure, NYC



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Public Art – Seating



Memphis Transit Authority



Longmont Park, CO

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Public Art – Seating



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Public Art – Kinetic Play

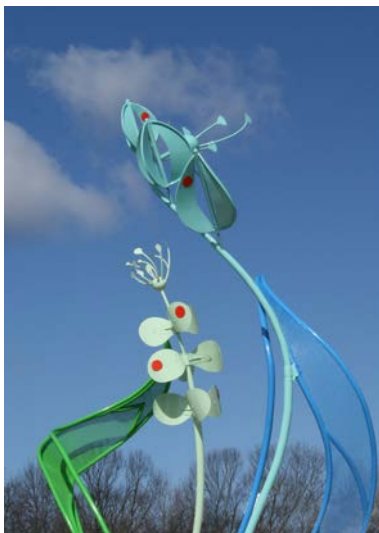


Halpatiokee State Park, FL



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Public Art – Kinetic Play



Elementary School, ME



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Reactions and Discussion

- Small Group Discussion
- Complete our 'Park Lib' and Questions



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Next Steps



- Online Survey – Summer 2016
- Arts Commission
- Park and Recreation Commission – June 2016 and September 2016
- Public Meeting with preferred Alternative Concept – August 2016

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Contact Information



Diane Ruggiero

Deputy Director - Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Department

Director - Office of the Arts

City of Alexandria

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

703.746.5590

diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov

www.alexandriava.gov/arts

Dana W. Wedeles, AICP

Urban Planner

City of Alexandria

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Division of Park Planning, Design + Capital Projects

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

703.746.5491 (office)

Dana.Wedeles@alexandriava.gov

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